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AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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AUSTRIAN INFORMATION wishes to remind its readers that the new address of its editorial offices is: Information Department, Austrian Consulate General, 509 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. Telephone: MU 7-4766. Comments, suggestions and requests for information sent to Dr. Martin Fuchs at the above address will be given our prompt attention.

AUSTRO-ITALIAN CONVENTIONS SIGNED. At the conclusion of a three days' stay in the Italian capital, Dr. Karl Gruber, Foreign Minister of Austria, and Italian Foreign Minister Count Carlos Sforza signed two conventions to facilitate transit between the Austrian and the Italian Tyrol. Under the terms of these agreements, which are purely technical in character, Italy will permit Austria to resume the use of a 70-mile railroad through the South Tyrol which was taken from Austria and turned over to Italy in 1918 as a war prize. Italy also agreed that, from now on, Austrian trains, bus lines and automobiles can resume use of the railway line and the roads through the Lower Tyrol connecting San Candido and the Brenner Pass. It was agreed also to begin talks on closer commercial relations between the two countries and to open conversations on the fate of the German speaking residents of the South Tyrol, as scores of thousands of residents of that area have remained attached to Austria ever since the conclusion of the St. Germain Treaty.

During his stay in Rome, Dr. Gruber said at a press conference that he had discussed the problems of a European Federation with Premier Alcide de Gasperi and other Italian officials. He expressed himself favorably about its prospects, but made it clear that his conversations resulted in no specific agreements. Only ways and means whereby a European Federation might be achieved were under discussion, he said. Dr. Gruber added that Austria had "enormous interest" in the port of Trieste, and declared that the Austrian Government intends to start negotiations with the Italian Government to increase the flow of goods to and from it.

During his visit in Rome, Dr. Gruber was received by Pope Pius XII in audience at Castel Gandolfo.

FOREIGN POLICY REPORT ON AUSTRIA. According to a report published by the Foreign Policy Association on November 1, 1948, Austrians overwhelmingly want the four occupying powers to pull out. The report spoke of Austria's three years of "uncertainty and frustration".

Non-Communist Austrians concede that Russia might begin putting on the pressure if the Allies leave, the report said. But they feel that Austria will remain united against communism and are certain that "Russia would be obliged to employ outright force in bringing the country into the Soviet sphere," it added.

"If this happened", they contend, "Russian aggression would be as clear as though the Red Army had attacked the Western Powers' occupation forces, and the West could not avoid coming to Austria's aid," the report said.

It was prepared by Winifred Hadsel, research associate for the Foreign Policy Association, a private organization, with headquarters at Midston House, 22 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y.

The report said that it must be the concern of the United States to help Austria hold recovery and independence gains, and prevent internal economic difficulties from shrinking her anti-Communist majority.

MINISTER OF FOOD DEPLORES INSUFFICIENT SHIPMENTS FROM THE EAST. Mr. Otto Sagmeister, Austrian Minister of Food, who is now attending the

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Annual FAO Meeting in Washington, stated recently that Austria has concluded trade agreements with Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Poland. In spite of all efforts to obtain considerable imports of vital food supplies from these countries, shipments of only 1350 tons of flour, 1340 tons of fats, and 1100 tons of meat were promised. As 1819 tons of flour are consumed daily in Austria, the above quantity could not even cover requirements for one single day. On the basis of present rationing levels these imports would supply meat for five days and fats for six days. Therefore, Minister Sagmeister concluded, Austria had to be particularly thankful for the food shipments from the West and the help under ERP which is so urgently needed to support her population.

Members of the Austrian Delegation to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization conference in Washington include: Mr. Otto Sagmeister, Federal Minister of Food; Dr. Rudolf Philipp, Head of Division in the Federal Ministry of Food and Chairman of the Austrian F.A.O. Committee; Ing. Franz Gruenseis, Head of Division in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture; Dr. Rudolf Fischer, Chief of Section in the Ministry of Food, and Ing. Bedus, Head of the Section of Forestry in the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture.

SEIZURE OF AUSTRIAN OFFICIAL. The Austrian Cabinet has filed a formal protest against the arrest, by Russian soldiers, of Dr. Margarete Ottillinger, Head of Division in the Austrian Ministry of Economic Planning and leading Austrian specialist concerned with the implementation of the Marshall Plan. Dr. Ottillinger was stopped by Russian soldiers on November 5 while en route from Linz to Vienna with Peter Krauland, Minister of Economic Planning. Mr. Krauland was released after 15 minutes, whereas Mrs. Ottillinger was arrested on the charge that her papers were not in order.

The day following her arrest the Austrian Minister of the Interior, Oskar Helmer, disclosed that during the last 10 months the Russians had seized 268 Austrian citizens. Of this number 162 are still in Russian hands. The Soviet Government has given no answer whatever to inquiries of the Austrian Government as to the reasons for arrests in more than one half of the 162 cases. Otto Tschadek, Socialist Party Deputy, told the Parliament that, although the Russians had promised to make public charges against Anton Marek, Chief of the Section of the Ministry of the Interior responsible for investigating seditious activities, no charges had been filed and nothing further had been heard of the fate of Mr. Marek who was arrested in July. Mr. Tschadek also said that State Assembly Man Gruber had been arrested by Soviet officials two years ago, had not reappeared, and that nothing had been heard of him. He added that now the Deputy's daughter had disappeared as well.

Deputy Otto Scheff of the People's Party told the Parliament that in the Russian zone near Vienna a subscription campaign for the Red Army newspaper "Oesterreichische Zeitung" must be described as terroristic. He added that, on the other hand, the Austrian democratic parties had to get the Soviet censor's permission for every poster put up advertising a political meeting.

RUSSIANS DEMAND LOCOMOTIVES AND FREIGHT CARS AS "BOOTY". Minister of Transportation Uebeleis, in a meeting of the Socialist Party in Steyr, reported on the Russian note demanding the delivery of 540 locomotives and 5575 freight cars. The delivery of such an amount of locomotives and cars would mean a substantial cut in passenger and freight traffic in the Russian zone and endanger the food supply of Vienna.

In another meeting, Mr. Migsch, Federal Minister of Public Utilities, explained that the Russian demand of these cars and locomotives as "booty" is against the provisions of International Law. According to Article 53 of the Hague Convention booty can only be made in a country with which one is at war. However, Russia was never at war with Austria, a fact which the Russians themselves have admitted in the Moscow Declaration of 1943 and later on in discussing the State Treaty.

The Russian demand is especially hard to bear as it comes at a time when the Americans require restitution of the 800 freight cars they have loaned to Austria.

In the Austrian Parliament the Socialist representatives urged the Minister of Transportation to appeal to the Russian and American forces of occupation and to explain to them that delivery of those means of transportation would prove disastrous to Austria's economy.

The first part of the document discusses the general situation of the country and the role of the government. It mentions the importance of maintaining order and the need for a strong central authority. The text is somewhat repetitive and lacks clear structure, but it seems to be a formal report or a set of instructions.

The second part of the document discusses the specific measures that have been taken to address the situation. It mentions the appointment of a new official and the implementation of various policies. The text is more detailed and provides specific information about the actions being taken.

AUSTRIAN SOCIALISTS UNITED ON SCHARF ISSUE. When the left-wing Socialist Erwin Scharf resigned his mandate in the Austrian Parliament some time ago, the Communists tried to use him to split the Austrian Socialist Party. The Communists offered to finance a separate Socialist group either within the Socialist Party or as a separate organization. However, this plan failed completely. Mr. Scharf admitted himself at a press conference that his followers had dwindled. Chairman of the Socialist Party, from which Mr. Scharf was expelled, is Vice-Chancellor Dr. Adolf Schaerf.

MEMORIAL TO THE FIGHTERS FOR AUSTRIA'S FREEDOM. On All Saints Day a memorial was unveiled on the Vienna Central Cemetery for the victims of Fascism and Nazism who died for the freedom of Austria in the years 1934 - 1945. Present at the solemn ceremony were Vice-Chancellor Dr. Schaerf, the Federal Ministers Dr. Hurdes, Maisel, Altenburger and Geroe. General Dr. Koerner, the Mayor of Vienna, evoked the memory of all those who, fighting Fascism, have lost their lives on the gallows, in the concentration camps or in prison. More than 6000 freedom fighters have been executed in Vienna alone. Many more thousands of Viennese men and women have been killed by the Nazis in Germany. But their fight and their sacrifice, Dr. Koerner said, have hastened the collapse of the Nazi regime.

JEWISH VICTIMS HONORED. Chancellor Leopold Figl, speaking on November 9th at memorial exercises for the Austrian Jews murdered by the Nazis, declared:

"All Austria bows her head with me in this hour in sorrow but also in shame at the thought of what you suffered ten years ago, though to the honor of this land it cannot be said too often that all these crimes and horrors were thought out and organized beyond our frontiers."

The Chancellor reminded his audience of his own seven years in a concentration camp, together with many Ministers of the present Cabinet, declaring: "I felt myself doubly obligated to come to you to tell you how much I feel this sorrowful day of memory and how alive in me is the memory of the suffering of thousands of those of your faith and how strong is my memory of the all-too great number of your dead comrades who also were my comrades."

"Your ceremony today is for me another demonstration that the Jews of Vienna and Austria feel themselves deeply attached to their Austrian homeland and are determined to regard themselves as members of the Austrian nation."

"The ruins of so many destroyed temples and the memory of so many mercilessly and vilely destroyed lives are a burden even today to many of the victims and cuts them off from those who honestly and honorably seek to reach their hearts. Let us push aside the ruins and make free to us the road to your hearts."

"Do not think that I am not aware that in this I demand of you something hard and great. However, may this hour of remembrance of the boundless suffering you were forced to bear give you spiritual strength and greatness to participate in this effort. The road is indeed difficult, but the goal justifies that effort."

FORMER NAZI OFFICIALS SENTENCED. Dr. Leopold Tavs, a former high official of the Nazi regime and originator of the so-called "Tavs Plan" or "Seven Point Action Program" aiming at the annexation of Austria by the German Reich, was found guilty of treason by the Austrian People's Court and sentenced to 15 years in prison. His property was confiscated.

Hans Doerfler, the former Nazi leader for the Vienna districts of Favoriten, Simmering and Schwechat, was sentenced by the People's Court to 11 years in prison because of crimes committed against humanity. He was accused by the prosecutor of having instigated atrocities against Jews.

AUSTRIAN 'COUNTERPART' - ERP FUNDS RELEASED. On November 10, the Economic Cooperation Administration released about \$33,052,000 of Austria's "counterpart" funds for railroad and communications reconstruction and public works. In Austrian currency the sum released amounts to 330,520,000 schillings. This fund represents about one-third of the deposits built up as a result of the foreign relief and "interim aid" programs preceding the Marshall Plan.

AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT FOR AUSTRIA. Mr. Josef Oberegger, General Manager of the Alpine Montan, Austria's greatest iron and

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-4

steel concern, has recently conferred with leading ECA officials in Washington about the possibility of replacing outmoded equipment, and expanding production facilities through the purchase of considerable quantities of specialised machinery from the United States under the ERP program. During his stay in the United States Mr. Oberegger, accompanied by two engineers of the Alpine Montan, has visited a number of American steel mills as well as the iron ore deposits in Minnesota in order to study the functioning of modern American equipment.

AUSTRIAN FEDERAL BUDGET DISCUSSED. The preliminary budget for 1949 provides for expenditures amounting to 6089 million schillings against a federal income of 6090 million schillings. At the meeting of the Austrian Parliament on October 27, Minister of Finance, Dr. Zimmermann reported that receipts as well as expenditures in the preliminary budget show an increase of 800 million schillings over the budget for 1948. The federal administration calls for the highest expenditure, i.e. 3637 million schillings, but it expects an income of 3708 million schillings and thus a surplus of 82 million schillings. 491 million schillings will be needed for social insurance and housing assistance. 276 million schillings, against 194 million in 1948, will be spent for elementary and junior high schools, 55 million schillings for secondary schools and 50 million for universities. Unfortunately, very little money will be available for adult education, museums, and the advancement of art and culture.

A surplus is also expected from some federal monopolies and public enterprises, such as the salt monopoly and the State Lottery. On the other hand, a deficit is expected in the management of the Federal Post Office, the State Theatres and the Federal Forests. The greatest deficit, however, will appear at the Austrian Federal Railways.

The budget for 1949 expects an income from direct taxation of 1402 million schillings reflecting a rise in trades and sales taxes due to the expansion of business activities. The indirect taxes will bring about 1596 million schillings, the greatest part of which will be constituted by the tobacco taxes.

The extra-ordinary expenditures for reconstruction, and investments amounting to 1442 million schillings cannot be provided for by normal Federal Income. They will be met partly by the proceeds from the sale of ERP goods and by special credits.

FINANCE MINISTER URGES GREATEST ECONOMY. During the discussion of the preliminary budget for 1949 Federal Minister Dr. Zimmermann reported that 48% of the total expenditures of 1948 were spent on the civil service, half on salaries to the civil servants proper and half on salaries to the employees of federal monopolies and public enterprises. The budget for 1949 provides for 259,000 civil servants, an increase of 14,000 against 1948. To accomplish greatest economy Dr. Zimmermann asked for the appointment of special commissioners for each federal ministry who will be responsible for introducing economy measures and will report directly to the Minister of Finance.

AUSTRIAN TRADE STATISTICS. The Federal Office of Statistics published the following figures for the month of August: Imports 222.5 million schillings; Exports 159.3 million schillings. The August exports show a decrease of about 14 million schillings against July. The main sources of imports were Germany (38.3 million schillings), Italy (30.8 million schillings), Czechoslovakia (27.6 million schillings), Switzerland (18.3 million schillings), Poland (15.6 million schillings), the United States (12.8 million schillings), Hungary (10.4 million schillings) and Great Britain (9.9 million schillings). Austrian exports to Italy took first place with 25.1 million schillings, followed by Switzerland with 16.9, Czechoslovakia 11.1, Yugoslavia 10.2, Germany 10, Great Britain 8.06 and finally Sweden with 8.3 million schillings. The most important export articles were hardware, lumber and paper which together accounted for 42% of the total exports in August.

As reported in our September issue Austria's exports during the first six months of 1948 amounted to 805.4 million schillings. 52% of this amount were paid through compensation, 14.9% in dollars, 7.1% in Pound sterling while the balance of 26% was settled through international clearings.

LUMBER EXPORTS INCREASING. The most important customer for Austrian lumber at the present time is Italy which compensates for it with artificial silk yarn. Greece is buying against tobacco. Exports of

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about 50,000 cft of lumber to Greece are expected for 1948. Turkey is also regularly buying lumber and prefabricated frame houses in compensation against tobacco. A satisfactory export business of lumber and frame houses to France has developed. Holland compensates Austria's lumber with artificial silk, spices, textiles and chemicals. Lately Denmark came into the market for lumber for which she sends seeds.

FERTILIZER PRODUCTION INCREASED. Higher prices for agricultural products have also resulted in a greater demand for fertilizers, especially nitrate of lime. The Nitrogen works at Linz, Upper Austria, have increased their production to such an extent that they are now able to meet the increased needs of the Austrian market, and have also started to export to other countries.

NEW DIESEL BUSES. The Steyr-Daimler-Puch-Werke have taken up serial manufacture of a new type of Diesel bus. These 3.5 ton buses, equipped with a 85 HP Diesel engine, consume about 6 gallons of gasoline a mile. On a trial run from Vienna to the Grossglockner a maximum speed of 49 miles an hour was reached on the autobahn between Reichenhall and Salzburg. The Federal Post Office has ordered ten of these new buses for its service.

CABLECARS FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Only recently a cablecar railroad manufactured in Austria was opened in Czechoslovakia. It has a length of more than 6 miles. Now Czechoslovakia has ordered two more cable car railroads from Austria.

CUCKOO CLOCKS MANUFACTURED IN AUSTRIA. For the first time Austria is now manufacturing the well-known woodcarved cuckoo clocks which were formerly made solely in the German Schwarzwald. The Ennstalker Schmuck G.m.b.H. in Steyr can now produce 300 clocks daily. As a side line, they are also manufacturing mechanical toys. Large orders, also from the United States, are expected soon.

SURGICAL THREAD PRODUCED IN VIENNA. The Vienna Slaughterhouse is importing considerable quantities of guts of Syrian sheep in order to produce "catgut" used as thread in surgical sewing. The advantage of this thread especially for internal operations lies in the fact that catgut as an organic matter is eventually absorbed by the body. There will be enough catgut soon even for export purposes while formerly this thread had to be imported from abroad.

COMMERCIAL CODE FREE FOR CIVILIANS. To further Austria's foreign trade the Allied Censorship Office has permitted the civilian use of the Rudolf Mosse Code.

VIENNA STOCK MARKET TO BE REOPENED SOON. The Minister of Finance announced the appointment of Dr. Joham, Director General of the Creditanstalt as President, and Dr. Landertshammer, Director General of the Oesterreichische Laenderbank as First Vice-President of the Vienna Stock Exchange. Regular stock market trade will be resumed in the very near future.

PURCHASING POWER REACHES 80% OF PRE-WAR LEVEL. Due to the recently concluded Wage- and Price Agreement, the actual purchasing power of the salaries of workers and employees has reached 80 percent of the pre-war level. However, productivity is still only 75% of pre-war. This discrepancy can be traced to the fact that many machines are worn out and outmoded, that workers are not nourished sufficiently, and therefore more workers are needed for the same output than in pre-war times. There is hope, however, that with the increase of calories and wages the working capacity will be raised, too. The magazine "Das Werk" (Work) points out that increases in the wages of manual workers are on the average higher than those in the salaries of white-collar workers. On the other hand, there is a steady demand for labor but a surplus of white-collar workers.

TRADE UNION RECREATION CENTER OPENED. A new recreation center for members of the Construction Trades Union was opened recently in the lovely chateau of Weinberg, Upper Austria, by Vice-Chancellor Schaerf. This center will combine recreation and education. Popular courses covering various fields of interest will be offered by professors of the Vienna University.

RECONSTRUCTION PROGRESS IN VIENNA. The deputy mayor of Vienna, Franz Honay, addressing a local rally of the Socialist Party, pointed out that at the end of World War II 86,875 of Vienna's 706,047 apartments had become uninhabitable. 36,851 of these were completely destroyed. From April 1945 until August 1948 the Municipality of Vienna, which is by far the biggest landlord of Austria's capital, spent 273 million schillings in repairing war damages. At the cost of 80 million schillings 18,000 destroyed and 63,000 damaged apartments were rebuilt. 61 millions were spent on the reconstruction of the city's sewers and water supply system. Another 21 million went for the rehabilitation of 109 school buildings with 1443 classrooms. 33 millions were necessary to repair the streets and squares of Vienna which by the end of the war were pox marked with bombcraters. The entire war damage in the area of Greater Vienna has been estimated at more than 16 billion schillings out of a total assessed value of about 92 billion. In spite of the priority given to the reconstruction of apartments there are still 28,000 persons on the waiting list of the City's Housing Authority.

VIENNA'S POPULATION GROWS. Although the population of Vienna amounting to 1,734,830 on Sept. 12th is still about 200,000 below the 1939 figure the monthly increase is considerable, reaching 8,650 in October. Since 1945, 100,000 persons, previously residents of Vienna, have returned to the city. The foreign population totaling around 122,000 includes 88,000 German citizens or persons of German ancestry who wish to become Austrians. The excess of women over men in the city of Vienna has risen since 1939 to more than a quarter of a million but as a good omen for the future slightly more boys than girls are now being born.

AMERICAN CHILDREN ADOPT VIENNESE SCHOOL. The Junior High School (Hauptschule) of Vienna's XV district was adopted recently by 1000 American children of a school in Rocky Island, Ill. Mr. Williams, Chief of the Educational Branch of the United States Forces in Austria addressing the boys and girls of the Vienna school pointed out that their adoption is a sign of the warmhearted wish of all American children to develop further friendly relations with the youth of Austria.

NEW RELIEF GROUPS FOR AUSTRIA. On October 25th a group, sponsored by Mrs. Ludwig Kleinwaechter, wife of the Austrian Minister to the United States, was formed in Washington under the name of "American Women's Goodwill to Austria". Headed by Mrs. Henry Gay, wife of General Gay, Commander of the Washington Army District, it is the only organization of its kind in Washington and plans to send food and clothing to needy Austrians. The Army has agreed to take care of the shipments, and the distribution will be handled by wives of US army and diplomatic personnel in Austria. Please address all communications to: "American Women's Goodwill to Austria", c/o Mrs. Henry Gay, Fort Myer, Virginia.

Another relief group founded recently in New York is the "American Friends of Austrian Children, Inc.", 202 East 19th Street, New York 3, N. Y., a voluntary organization to render aid and assistance to Austrian children by supplying them with food and clothing as well as with medical aid and financial assistance. The organization which was sponsored by Dr. Wilhelm Ellenbogen, Professor Chase A. Gulick, Professor Adolph Sturmthal, Franz Hoellering and many others, also aims at creating better understanding of the needs of Austrian children and at fostering friendly relations between the children of the United States and Austria. The Executive Director of this relief group is Mr. John Gorski of New York City.

PRIESTLY ENDOWS BIOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTATION IN VIENNA. Julian Huxley, Director of UNESCO and noted biologist, was so impressed with the work being carried on by young scientists at the Wilhelminenberg Experimental Station in Vienna that he persuaded his well-known author friend John Priestly to visit it also with the result that Priestly decided to donate all the proceeds from one of his plays currently running in Vienna to this experimental station and to another similar one now being established.

AUSTRIAN ART EXPERT INVITED TO HARVARD UNIVERSITY. Harvard University has invited Professor Otto Demus, Chief of the Federal Office for the Preservation of National Monuments, to lecture during the spring term (January - June 1949) on Byzantine Art.

TYROLIAN YOUTH CHOIR TO TOUR AMERICA. The "Vogelweidchor" of Innsbruck, winner of an Austrian nationwide competition, has been invited by the University of St. Louis to visit the U. S. A. The choir is expected to arrive next January and will be heard in twenty big American cities during a three month tour. Opening in New York, the group will then visit Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, St. Louis, Cincinnati, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Santa Fe, New Orleans, and Miami Beach.

AUSTRIAN TENOR HAILED IN ARGENTINA. Anton Dermota, leading tenor of the Vienna Opera, has just finished a very successful engagement at the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires. The press as well as the public was particularly enthusiastic about his performance in "Freischutz", conducted by Erich Kleiber.

ENGLAND AND ITALY TO HEAR AUSTRIAN MUSICIANS. The success of the Vienna Academy of Singers in Perugia, Italy, in September has resulted in their being invited to sing at the forthcoming music festival in Florence. The repertoire of this group includes a number of outstanding modern works such as Hindemith's Requiem, "When Lilacs last in the Dooryard Bloom'd", Honegger's King David, and several works of Stravinsky. The most significant opera written by an Austrian composer since the war, "Danton's Death" by Gottfried Einem, is to be presented next spring in the Scala in Milan. And, during the winter season of 1949/50, audiences of London and other principal English cities will hear a series of concerts given by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra with Furtwaengler conducting.

SALZBURG FESTIVAL 1949. Tentative plans for next year's Salzburg Festival include a performance of Mahler's "Lied von der Erde" under Bruno Walter's direction, and, in the dramatic field, presentations of Carl Orff's "Antigone", Goethe's "Iphigenie" and, as in former years, Hofmannsthal's "Jedermann" given on the steps of the Cathedral.

NEW DIRECTOR OF THE BURGTHEATER. Josef Gielen, the new director of Vienna's world famous Burgtheater, took over his job on October 18. He had just returned from South America where he had become a successful theatrical producer after escaping from the Nazis in 1938.

KORDA-SELZNICK PRODUCTION IN VIENNA. Vienna is, in the very near future, to be the scene of the filming of a combined Selznick-Korda production. The picture is to be taken from "The Third Man" by Graham Green, author of the current best seller "The Heart of the Matter". Joseph Cotton and Vali will be starred. This is one of the four movies which this team plans to produce in Europe.

AUSTRIA'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK. The Neusiedler See, Austria's biggest lake right on the Hungarian border, and its surroundings will be the country's first National Park. The State Government of the Burgenland, where the lake is located, has sponsored the foundation of a Research Committee for the scientific and economic development of the Neusiedler See area. Very little is known yet about the lake and its shores because there are few communications to the more densely populated parts of the country. However, this area is, from a botanical as well as from a zoological point of view, supposed to be one of the most interesting spots of Central Europe.

WINTER TOURIST SEASON IN AUSTRIA. The program for Austria's winter season shows an almost unbroken series of important and exciting winter sports events. The Kandahar Ski Race inaugurated by Hannes Schneider and Arnold Lunn twenty-five years ago will be returned this season, on March 12th and 13th, to its traditional Galzig run at St. Anton. Salzburg province is to see a two weeks' winter sport meeting from January 20th to February 6th with many innovations in ski racing, and the Tyrol will be the scene of an International Winter Sport Week which will open on January 2nd with an international ski jump competition on Innsbruck's new Berg Is1 jump. This to mention only a few of the many events planned. Hotels have announced that they are able to accommodate ten thousand visitors this winter and entry regulations have been considerably simplified. It is no longer necessary to make hotel reservations paid in advance. The possession of a tourist card will be sufficient in order to obtain an entry permit and to travel freely to any of the many famous Alpine resorts. New skilifts, cable cars and mountain ski huts have been opened to add to the already excellent facilities. To take only one

example, Saalbach in the province of Salzburg has forty different ski runs and some of the finest practice slopes in the country. For additional information write to Austrian State Tourist Department, 50 West 10th Street, New York 11, N. Y.

AUSTRIAN POSTER "SMILING GIRL" WINS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION IN PARIS. The first prize for the best travel poster entered in the International Poster Competition in Paris went to the Austrian State Tourist Department's winter ski poster "Smiling Girl", which was designed by Paul Aigner, an Austrian artist who has won many similar awards in the past. Of the five hundred posters submitted to the United States Travel Bureau to be incorporated in their traveling exhibit, five of the hundred finally chosen were Austrian, most of them Tyrolian. Copies of all these posters are available upon request.

MOUNTAIN HUTS AVAILABLE FOR YOUTHS COMING TO AUSTRIA. The State Government of the Tyrol is planning an International Ski Meeting for Youngsters of all nations this winter, visitors to be accommodated at the following three huts: Tannheim (altitude 3700 feet), Berwang (4300 feet), and Kuehtal (6600 feet). These three huts are located in what is considered the most beautiful region of the Austrian Alps, where snow conditions have never been known to fail.

The ski meets will last from 13 to 15 days. They are open to participants from 14 to 25 years of age. The object of the meets is to ski together, to foster an exchange of ideas, and get acquainted. Participants may join one or more meets.

The ski meets are scheduled to take place on the following dates: 1. December 26, 1948 - January 8, 1949; 2. January 9 - January 22, 1949; 3. January 23 - February 5, 1949; 4. February 6 - February 19, 1949; 5. February 20 - March 5, 1949; 6. March 6 - March 19, 1949; 7. March 20 - April 2, 1949; 8. April 3 - April 18, 1949.

Those wishing to take part should register with: Landesjugendreferat Tirol, Hofburg, Innsbruck (Tyrol), Austria - stating their name, address, nationality, profession (if any), date of ski meet(s) and place. Registrations should be made three weeks before opening.

NEW AUSTRIAN STAMP. A new 1 schilling stamp marking the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Austrian Republic has been issued by the Austrian Postal Administration on November 12. The stamp bears the likeness of Dr. Karl Renner, present President, who became the Head of the Government after the liberation from the Nazis. This stamp was designed by Professor Ferdinand Lorbeer and the recess printed by the Austrian State Printing Works. At the same time a new Austrian air mail envelope with imprinted design has been issued. The sheet with the face value of 1 schilling and printed in blue was released on November 1st.

